

Intro: Recap of letter. Prayer. Untouchables. We commoners relate > to E.

1. E's Character (25)
 - a) P's Brother – gospel presentation (connotes > than any believer though)
 - b) P's Co-Worker – gospel ministry requires hard work (Cf. 1 Cor. 3:9).
 - c) P's Fellow Soldier – gospel ministry is a fight (against physical & spiritual)
 - d) Their Messenger – he brought (αἴτσιοι, στέλλοι) their love offering to Paul
 - e) Their Minister – he also ministered to P's other needs in prison
 - ⇒ Gospel ministry is > than vocally preaching it (*all* can be ministers)
 - ⇒ leitourgo, j - cf. Rom. 15:16. In serving P (i.e. the gospel), serves *God!*
2. E's Concern (26)
 - a) His longing (ἐνπιποσῶ/ν) for *all* (πα, ντα) the Philippians (cf. P's longing, 1:6)
 - ⇒ Does Christ's yearning characterize *us* as a church? Why or why not?
 - ⇒ When you miss a service, are you like E? Do you long on Sundays?
 - b) His distress (cf. Matt. 26:38 [cf. Timothy's anxiety])
 - ⇒ B/c they heard of his illness (note also *their* concern for him!)
 - ⇒ How often we are 'me-focused' when we get sick! But E had X's mind
3. God's Compassion (27)
 - a) On Epaphroditus – divine healing God's sovereign prerogative (2 Cor. 12)
 - b) On Paul – note the network of love.
 - ⇒ P knows the pain of gospel casualties. Imprisonment already grieving P
4. Paul's Commission (28)
 - a) The "Necessity" of it (ἀναγκαι / οἱ, cf. 1:24) – *they* are > than him (X's mind)
 - b) That they might rejoice – cf. 1:25 w/ 2:17 (P's outpouring as drink off'g)
 - c) That he might be less anxious – P too has clay feet (cf. 2:19)
5. E's Coming Home (29)
 - a) His welcome – his visit to P was not a failure
 - ⇒ God is not interested in outward 'results' but our sacrificial faithfulness
 - b) His example – cf. 3:17; 4:3
 - ⇒ Though repudiated in the world's eyes, he is honored in God's.
 - ⇒ "Esteem" (NAB), "hold in high regard" (NASB)
 - ⇒ Who the church esteems as role models is not like the world!
6. E's Courageous Sacrifice (30)
 - a) Like X & P, was willing to die to advance God's redemptive purposes
 - b) *By* risking his life to do what the others couldn't (lit. 'Rolling the dice')
 - ⇒ What are *you* able to do that no one else can? Would you risk your life to do it if it would meet another's needs & advance the cause of Christ?
 - ⇒ I.e. E was willing to gamble w/ his own comfort & security, to expose himself to whatever dangers arose as he ministered for P. Others > self

Conc.: The entire account of P, T & E exemplifies the highest standards of Xn love, sympathy, unselfish concern & the desire to comfort others at our expense (cf. 2:2-5) There may be ↓ P's, some T's, but there can be ↑ E's (the e.g. of 'ordinary sacrifice')